

CONCERN

A Magazine for Women

Published by United Presbyterian Women

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on the editor's desk

This month's letters are a combination of recent responses to Concern articles and a selection of last year's Christmas greetings.

On Proposed Worshipbook Changes

I am circle leader at Merriam Lexington Church in St. Paul, and after reviewing several articles in the September Concern at our meeting this afternoon, my circle voted to have me write to you to express our view on spending \$110,000 (which I notice since that the G.A. voted down) for changing the language in *The Worshipbook*. We feel very strongly that when the giving to mission is down so much, it is not fitting to spend money like that on something so really unimportant...

I come from a family who has had missionaries on the field and wish we could spend more money on mission in all of its forms than on logistics that don't make that much difference to the majority of Presbyterians. I don't know how much difference our thoughts make on the big decisions but they wanted me to express theirs for what it is worth. Yours in *His* service.

*Mrs. Robert S. Wells
St. Paul, Minnesota*

Behold Me Busy

Regarding the General Assembly's vote not to approve proposed changes in *The Worshipbook* (p. 2, September Concern). I have read very carefully the August A.D. noting "Dollar Crunch," p. 20; "Major Campaign (for mission funds) Authorized," p. 22; "staff members (of the denomination) face a new round of dismissals . . . predicted . . . as high as 25 percent" and many other items tied to dwindling funds. I am therefore grateful to the General Assembly for overwhelmingly deciding that \$110,000 was needed worse in many hardship areas.

But if, as a denomination, we were not so hard up, and if changes in pronouns could be undertaken, can this really advance our status as Christians and as women? *Words*

won't do it.

Time and again as I have read, in this community of Annapolis, what women are saying and doing "toward liberation," I have felt that not knowing what tangible goals they, as individuals, could put their shoulders to, they have come up with a "behold me busy" project. I believe we can do better than this.

*Sue S. McCann
Arnold, Maryland*

The Unexpected Christ

Christ comes in unexpected ways—

Not always in a gaily wrapped package,

But in common swaddling clothes—

Not only for the powerful—
But for the humble as well.

Christ comes in unexpected ways—

Not always as we hear the familiar carol,

But, for some, in the sound of "rock"—

Not only through the eyes of the well-fed,

But through the cries of the hungry.

Christ comes in unexpected ways—

Not always in reverent silence do I meet him,

But in the loud, noisy troubled street.

Christ comes unexpectedly—
Not always with solutions,

But with gifts—

Opportunities in the guise of problems.

What beautiful gifts!

Unexpected—yet, expected!

*Peg (Mrs. Edgar) Poulton
McLean, Virginia*

Christmas All Year

The Shepherds smelled of earth and wool

The Wise Men spent their all for Truth

King Herod tried to slaughter Love

God! all these are in my heart

*Mary H. (Mrs. Lindsay) Hadley
Pasadena, California*

The Gifts of Christmas

What will you give

As a gift of love

To celebrate Christ in the world

A gift more precious than spices or gold

What will you give
Of yourself

Will you give her trust
Who hovers in doubt
Whose confidence wavers and shrinks
Will you give hope
To one who despairs
Or fears what tomorrow may bring

Will you give rest
To the weary of soul
Who finds that his path is too steep
Will you give help
Without being asked
Wherever you see there's a need

Will you give time
Your time, to some person
To show that you really care
Will you give strength
To people who weaken
With loving support and your prayers
Will you give patience
To young and to old
And listen—their hearts' greatest need
Will you give voice
To injustice and war
And work for a God-centered peace

Will you give friendship
To one without friends
That he may learn no one's alone
Will you show faith
To those who are searching
By your devotion and love

Will you give thought
Before you speak out
Whether your words hurt or heal
Will you give a hand
To woman or man
Regardless of color or creed

Will you reach out
To another and touch
With hand and with heart feel the pain
Will you forgive
Though tormented and hurt
You both will be made whole again

Will you give up
Pride and its falseness
That keeps you from seeing the truth
Will you learn to receive
That others may know
The pleasure of giving to you

Will you carry
The burden of a friend in distress
That the sharing may lighten her heart
Will you commit
Yourself to your God
As a candle to brighten the dark
...

What will you give
As a gift of love
To celebrate Christ in the world
Will you give joy, will you give love
What will you give
Of yourself

*Mrs. L. F. Howe, Jr.
Marion Station, Pennsylvania*